

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 VO-05 CIAE-00
FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
H-01 PA-01 /066 W
-----102486 042156Z /20

R 041115Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0919
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PROP, RO
SUBJECT: UNWILLING PROPAGANDA SUBJECT SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 4656, (B) BUCHAREST 3633

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAD INTERESTING EXPERIENCE AUGUST 1 OF VISIT FROM CONSTANTIN IANCEA, WHO HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF ANTI-EMIGRATION POLEMIC IN MAY 18 ISSUE OF FLACARA, DISCUSSED REF B. IANCEA, WHO BROUGHT COPY OF PAPER AND VARIOUS DOCUMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE TRUE VERSION OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN U.S. AND IN ROMANIA SINCE HIS RETURN, WAS INTERVIEWED BY THREE OFFICERS, WHO WERE UNANIMOUSLY CONVINCED THAT HE WAS UNWILLING VICTIM OF UNPRINCIPLED GOR ANTI-EMIGRATION PRACTICES, INCLUDING
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TOTALLY FABRICATED VERSION OF HIS OWN EMIGRATION EXPERIENCE. PUBLICATION OF FLACARA ARTICLE WAS LAST STRAW, PROMPTING HIS IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION FROM JOB AS PE INSTRUCTOR IN GENERAL SCHOOL AND CAUSING HIM FINALLY TO DISREGARD THREAT OF ARREST AS AMERICAN SPY THAT HAD DETERRED HIM FROM EARLIER PURSUIT OF HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TO U.S. OR EXPRESS HIMSELF TO EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PIECE OF PURE PROPAGANDA, FLACARA ARTICLE WAS OBVIOUSLY FAR-FETCHED, BUT WE HAD ASSUMED THE EXISTENCE OF A DISGRUNTLED SUBJECT WHO, WE ALSO SUPPOSED, HAD BEEN AT LEAST RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME MINIMUM VERISIMILITUDE, HOWEVER SENSATIONALIZED THE AUTHOR'S FINAL PRODUCT. HOWEVER, BEYOND FACT THAT IANCEA EXISTS AS DESCRIBED (AGE 23 AT TIME HE FLED, 1.98 METERS, 100 KILOS) AND HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY FROM BRIEF STAY IN U.S., ENTIRE ARTICLE IS MANUFACTURED FROM WHOLE CLOTH. IANCEA HAD NOT RETURNED TO ROMANIA BECAUSE OF ANY DISAPPOINTMENT IN U.S., BUT BECAUSE MOTHER HAD BEGGED HIM TO RETURN TO HIS SERIOUSLY ILL FATHER, WHOSE DEATH CERTIFICATE IS DATED WITHIN FIVE MONTHS OF SON'S RETURN. HE POINTED OUT TO EMBOFF WHAT HE CONSIDERED SOME LAUGHABLE UNTRUTHS IN ARTICLE: WAGE OF \$50 PER WEEK WITH \$60 PER MONTH RENT FOR DISMAL 3X3 METER ROOM IN QUEENS SLUM, 80 PERCENT HIGHER WIGES PAID AMERICAN FELLOW EMPLOYEES, AND ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BECAUSE OF HIS SIZE HE COULD FIND WORK ONLY AS COAL MINER, HOD CARRIER, OR GARBAGE COLLECTOR. HIS HE CONTRASTED WITH FACTS THAT EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HAD PLACED HIM WITHIN ONE WEEK AT NEW VINCENTOWN DINER IN VINCENTOWN, NEW JERSEY, WHERE HE WAS PROVIDED WITH FREE ROOM AND BOARD IN ADDITION TO WAGES OF \$180 PER 40-HOUR WEEK, WHICH HAD ENABLED HIM TO BUY USED TRIUMPH FOR \$400.

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3. AS ARTICLE STATED, GOR DID FIND HIM EMPLOYMENT IN HIS FIELD UPON HIS RETURN, BUT WELCOME HARDLY QUALIFIED AS WARM AND HAPPY. FIRST ACT BY AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN TO SEARCH HOME FOR TYPEWRITER, RADIO EQUIPMENT AND LIST OF CONTACTS AND TO INFORM HIM THAT IF HE SOUGHT TO RETURN TO U.S. HE WOULD BE OPEN TO SUSPICION OF BEING AMERICAN SPY, AND COULD RECEIVE UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON. IN PREVIEW OF MORE RECENT EXPERIENCE, HE HAD FIRST BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN 1977, AND CLAIMS BRIEF ARTICLE APPEARED THEN TOO AGAINST HIS WILL, AFTER WHICH HIS EMPLOYER ASKED THAT HE SPEAK TO POLITICAL EDUCATION CLASSES ABOUT HIS UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES IN U.S. WHEN HE DECLINED, HE WAS INFORMED THAT SCHOOL NEVER WOULD HAVE HIRED HIM IF IT HAD KNOWN OF HIS DUBIOUS PAST AND TRAITOROUS ATTITUDE. HE CLAIMS THAT ONLY REASON HE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN JOB THEREAFTER WAS BECAUSE HE INSISTED ON EMPLOYMENT IN RETURN FOR PLAYING ON CITY BASKETBALL TEAM.

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4. AFTER RESIGNATION IN MAY, HE WAS ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR PASSPORT IN TIMISOARA AND APPEARED JUNE 16 BEFORE THREE-MAN LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CUSTOMARY BROW-BEATING DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE PURSUIT OF APPLICATION. ACCORDING TO IANCEA, MAJORITY OF PETITIONERS ARE REJECTED WITHIN 30 DAYS AND, AS HE HAD BEEN NEITHER REJECTED NOR APPROVED, HE RETURNED TO PASSPORT OFFICE JULY 25, BUT WAS SENT AWAY. HE VISITED EMBASSY AUGUST 1 TO INQUIRE WHETHER, IF HE PURSUED PASSPORT APPLICATION OR RISKED BEING SHOT TRYING TO CROSS BORDER (WHICH HE SAID HAS BEEN RECENT FATE OF SEVERAL PEOPLE), HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RE-ENTER U.S.

5. IANCEA SHED SOME LIGHT ON SITUATION AT PASSPORT OFFICE IN TIMISOARA, WHICH HE SAID OPENS FOR BUSINESS DAILY AT
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10:00 A.M. WHEN HE WENT TO OFFICE AT SUN-UP, AROUND 5:00 A.M. ON JULY 25, HE WAS NUMBER 222 OR 223 IN LINE. HE ESTIMATED LINE HAD GROWN TO 400-500 BY 10:30 AM. WHEN

COLONEL CAME OUT AND TOLD ALL BUT ABOUT 20 PERSONS TO GO HOME. IANCEA CLAIMED THIS IS DAILY SCENE AND INVITED EMBOFF TO VISIT HIM IN TIMISOARA AND SEE FOR HIMSELF. MAJORITY OF ASPIRING EMIGRANTS ARE ETHNIC GERMANS, BUT IANCEA CLAIMS THERE ARE ALSO MANY ETHNIC ROMANIANS--MOSTLY SEEKING TO GO TO U.S.--AS WELL AS JEWS SEEKING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

6. COMMENT: IANCEA'S DEMEANOR WAS FREE OF EITHER BRAVADO OR MELODRAMA AND HE IMPRESSED EMBOFFS AS THOROUGHLY UP-
STANDING YOUNG MAN WHO RETURNED TO ROMANIA SOLELY OUT OF FILIAL PIETY, WAS INTIMIDATED BY THREATS OF ARREST FROM PURSUING DESIRE TO RETURN TO U.S. IN FAVOR OF TRYING TO MAKE A GO OF IT IN ROMANIA, UNTIL APPEARANCE OF ARTICLE CONVINCED HIM HE WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO ABIDE IN PEACE UNLESS HE WAS WILLING TO PROSTITUTE HIMSELF FOR GOR'S PURPOSES. WE BELIVE THIS IS REALITY, IN CONTRAST TO "REALITIES" WHICH FLACARA SECRETARY GENERAL NICOLAU CLAIMED (REF A) GOR OBLIGATED TO POINT OUT TO INTENDING ROMANIA EMIGRANTS. IANCEA'S EXPERIENCE ILLUSTRATES THAT CORDIALITY AT HIGHEST LEVELS HAS NOT AFFECTED OFFICIAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR AT LOWER LEVELS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROVINCES.
AGGREY

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